Son of Iran shah commits suicide in US pg 2 Japan clashes with Dutch-flagged anti-whaling vessels pg 2

Chelsea boss rules out **Beckham bid** pg 14

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

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Carubbian Foundation and Government sign agreement



Last week Ministers Otmar Oduber and Mike de Meza

signed an agreement with Carubbian Foundation for the

realization of the Carubbian Festival.

The Carubbian Festival is expected to be a weekly event which will be designed to bring visitors and the people of Aruba together enabling our tourists to learn more of our history and culture. Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber is intent on a new focus between tourism, culture and history of Aruba which he asserts should dominate in the change he envisions for the marketing of Aruba.

According to Oduber, San Nicolaas is the ideal bario which can best bring our tourists closer to what is our culture and history because it is there that most of our various cultural roots began among the more than 40 nationalities living together.

The intention is to, in an organized fashion, transport our tourists to this part of the island and introduce them to the complete Caribbean....only in Aruba, and in San Nicolaas, can you experience the total Caribbean experience. Hence, the reason for the name 'Carubbian'.... a combination of Caribe and Aruba: Carubbian Festival.

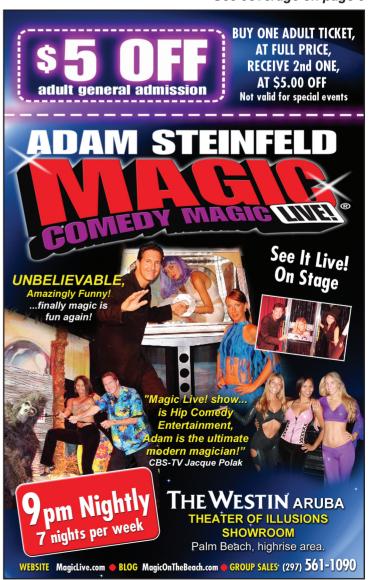
Continued on page 3

A coalition of island health groups launches "I Love my Body" Carnival campaign



See coverage on page 3





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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Son of Iran shah commits suicide in US Dutch Muslims offer to guard Coptic churches WASHINGTON (AFP) - The University, had struggled to

youngest son of the late shah of Iran has committed suicide in his home in the United States, his family said yester-

"It is with immense grief that we would like to inform our compatriots of the passing away of Prince Alireza Pahlavi," Reza Pahlavi, the shah's oldest son, said on his website.

He said that his brother, 44, who was studying at Havard come to terms with the political troubles in his native country of Iran.

"Like millions of young Iranians, he too was deeply disturbed by all the ills fallen upon his beloved homeland, as well as carrying the burden of losing a father and a sister in his young life," Reza Pahlavi wrote.

"Although he had struggled for years to overcome his sorrow, he finally succumbed, and

during the night of the 4th of January 2011, in his Boston residence, took his own life, plunging his family and friends into great sorrow."

Alireza Pahlavi was undertaking a postgraduate degree at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in philology and ancient Iranian studies.

His father, the former shah, Mohammad Reza, was ousted in the 1979 Islamic revolution, and his family moved to live in exile in the United States. The deposed shah died in July 1980 and is buried in Cairo

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands -- Dutch Muslims yesterday offered to guard three Coptic churches in the Netherlands which have been threatened on an Al-Qaeda-linked website after a New Year's Day bombing killed 21 Coptic

The Dutch Muslim Council, the Council of Moroccan Mosques in the Netherlands and the Federation of Islamic Organisations "offer protection" to three Dutch Coptic churches which were among 50 in Egypt and Europe threatened on a list on an Al-Qaedalinked website, they said in a statement.

Christians in Egypt.

The Dutch Islamic groups promised to ensure that "Muslims are ready to guard the three churches, in Amsterdam, Utrecht and Eindhoven, against the threat by Al-Qaeda"

The Netherlands counts

some 6,000 Coptic Christians, seven Coptic churches and about a million Muslims.

The Dutch groups urged all Muslims to condemn the threat.

"It is up to us to do so because Al-Qaeda is claiming to act in the name of Islam. Christian Copts, us (Muslims), and all Dutch have the same enemy: the terrorists," the statement said. "We can't sleep at the idea that Christian Copts may be attacked here, in the Netherlands."

Pastor Arsenious El Baramousy of the Amsterdam Coptic Church told AFP he had contacted the police "who are taking measures" ahead of the orthodox Christmas to be celebrated on Friday.

Utrecht police confirmed they had upped security around the city's Coptic

Japan clashes with Dutchflagged anti-whaling vessels

THE HAGUE, the Netherlands -- The whaling season has seen its first skirmishes between Japanese whalers and Sea Shepherd anti-whaling activists. One of the campaign ships has a Dutch captain.

Japan has called on the Netherlands, New Zealand,

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Australia and the United States to take measures against antiwhaling group Sea Shepherd. The four countries have called for restraint on both sides. In a joint statement they expressed regret that the Japanese fleet continues to kill whales.

The Japanese whalers and the conservationists clashed last weekend in the Pacific Ocean, close to Antarctica. The Japanese crew managed to hold off Sea Shepherd's speedboats using water cannon as they tried to snare the Japanese vessel's propellers with floating cables. No one was injured.

The skirmishes were the first of this whaling season, which runs from December to February. The Japanese whalers say Australia and the Netherlands should take action against Sea Shepherd - two of the organisation's vessels sail under a Dutch flag, while one is registered in Australia.

The captain of one of the ships, Dutchman Alex Cornelissen, says that up to now no whales have been killed. Commercial whaling has been banned since 1986, and whales can only be killed for scientific purposes. Japan claims it only kills whales for research purposes, but Sea Shepherd says the whale meat ends up on sale for consumption.



CALI, Colombia -- A Colombian policeman from an anti-narcotics unit guards packages of a seizure of marijuana totalizing four tons in Cali, Valle del Cauca department, yesterday. According to authorities the shipment was hidden in a truck container bound for

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Carubbian Foundation and Government sign agreement

Continued from page 1



Carubbian Festival Foundation President Ramon Arrindell and Secretary Leonard Berenos signed the agreement together with the two ministers making the weekly festival a reality at the start of the first quarter of 2011.

Both ministers were delighted with this agreement which they believe will give San Nicolaas a tremendous boost and will give the necessary focus to the tourism marketing of the area. Our visitors will have opportunity to not only experience something of our culture and history but also be able to participate in various local activities, which is what many of today's visitors want.

The modern day tourist is no longer interested in just Sun, Sea and Fun; they also want to explore the island they are visiting. They want to know about the culture, traditions, the music, food and the history, and this is what Carubbian Festival is poised to offer.

Through this means the district of San Nicolaas will receive the attention it deserves and will be developed touristically. San Nicolaas should maintain its authenticity and become a cultural and historical center which in turn will enable the Aruba product to be enhanced, according to Oduber and de Meza. In this way, they concluded that they are keeping their commitment to the people of San Nicolaas and Aruba in general.

Very soon the people of Aruba and our visitors will be able to enjoy the weekly presentations of the Carubbian Festival.

A coalition of island health groups launches "I Love my Body" Carnival campaign



Youthful cast of I Love my Body infomercial

Aruba's carnival season is upon us, and three organizations have banded together to raise the awareness of youth in regards to the pitfalls of overindulgence in alcohol and other substances. Monique Geel of the White/ Yellow Cross care system, Richenel Stamper of CIAD (Centro di Information pa Asuntonan di Droga), the official anti-drug information center, and Evelin Yarzagaray of Family Planning announced the "I Love my Body" campaign during a press conference at The Cinemas at Paseo Herencia on Monday afternoon, January 3.

One of the greatest parties in the world, and a national tradition, are the myriad events of Aruba's carnival; this year, over an extended period beginning Saturday, January 8, with the Torch Parade and ending on the eve of Ash Wednesday, March 9. It will comprise two months of countless opportunities for the excessive consumption of alcohol and possibly substance abuse.

The other "downside" of carnival is a spike in teenage pregnancies, very often a result of too much alcohol and mind altering substances, which also impair judgment; if not pregnancy, the contraction of a variety of STD's. CIAD, White-Yellow Cross, and Family Planning have the cooperation of The Women's Club of Aruba in their informative campaign to re-



Richeline Stamper, Evelin Yarzagarary and Monique Geel

duce or even hopefully eliminate these negative aspects of Carnival.

An infomercial featuring an energetic and catchy song composed and performed by popular local musicians Janiro Eisden and Jeonn (Biggy Boy) will play just before all films being screened at The Cinemas in Oranjestad and Paseo Herencia. It features a cast of island teens, including former Teen Carnival Queen Zizianne Goeloe, remonstrating youth to love their body and have respect for it. Attractive "I Love my Body" tee shirts are on sale for only 5 Arubian florins, (\$2.71 U.S.) at the White/Yellow Cross Oranjestad and at the Family Planning Center. Free condoms are being distributed at the Boulevard Valero station at the western outskirts of Oranjestad and the Essoville station in San Nicolas.

The "I Love my Body" coalition reminds island youth that Carnival is a time for great fun and enjoyment with friends and family; respect yourself and your body and do not pay a high price nine months later or by contracting some incurable ailment.



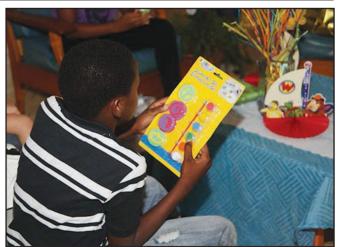


Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar shares the end of year with Imelda Hof children and staff





On December 31, Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, paid a courtesy visit to Imelda Hof, a home for children of broken families, to



share their New Year's celebration. This included special attention for two of the children who celebrated their birthday that day, and afterwards, she took an active part in lighting the traditional pagara to chase away all the negative vibes of the old year. The minister presented the celebrants with

presents and enjoyed informative discussions with the staff and Board of Director of the

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar stated the occasion prompted her to look back to a year filled with challenges. However, seeing what has been accomplished by Imelda Hof, she realizes this is tempered with an abundance of dedication and attention at the center. During the past year she managed to change the Imelda Hof platform to be open 24/7, affording the children more opportunities to receive support and professional guidance, where previously the youngsters were sent home on the weekends. She expressed plans to renovate and expand the home in the coming year.





*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese *Scrambled

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*Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom

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End of the year visit with senior citizens by Prime Minister Mike Eman

with Tipico Alegre Kadushi Largo









Prime Minister Mike Eman established an end of the year tradition long before taking office, which entails visits accompanied by his wife Doina to Aruba's senior citizens, wishing them Happy New Year. As it is a

little it difficult to visit every single one, the Prime Minister usually calls at the homes for the elderly, to the delight of the residents.

This year, PM Eman invited local musical group Tipico Alegre Kadushi Largo to accompany him on his tour, bringing holiday cheer to the various homes.

Needless to say, our senior citizens enjoyed themselves very much!

Sci-Tech

Canadian girl youngest ever to spot supernova



This composite image released by the Nasa in 2010 shows a supernova

MONTREAL (AFP) – A 10year-old Canadian girl has become the youngest person ever to discover a supernova, or exploding star, according to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Eagle-eyed Kathryn Aurora Gray, from Fredericton in the eastern province of New Brunswick, made the

rare find on Sunday as she combed dozens of telescopic images of star fields in faraway galaxies.

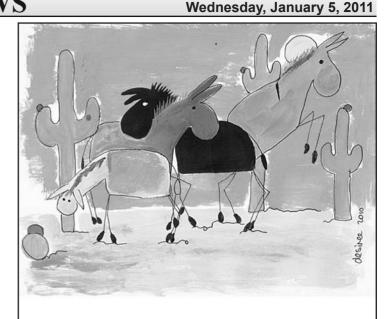
"The RASC is pleased to announce the discovery of a supernova by a 10-year-old amateur astronomer -- the youngest person ever to have made such a discovery," the society said in a statement. On spotting Supernova 2010lt in the constellation of Camelopardalis in a galaxy 240 light-years from Earth, Gray immediately told her delighted amateur astronomer father Paul.

The find was then verified by two US-based amateur astronomers before being reported to the International Astronomical Union's Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams.

Supernovae are massive stars that run out of fuel, collapse under the weight of their own gravity and become an ultra-dense object known as a neutron star.

They then send out a shockwave that rips the star apart and leaves a sizzling cauldron of radiation.

These colossal events are among the most thrilling phenomena for astronomers and are detected when the highenergy explosion creates a dramatic flare that eventually fades



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Chinese website selling iPad2

Alibaba -- even before Apple

has launched the new device

-- and suggest the next model

Spelich told AFP on Tuesday

the company had been asked

to remove the listings, which

Alibaba spokesman John

will have a camera.

New Brunswick, made the society said in a statement. fades. Atlantic currents have seen 'drastic' changes: study

GENEVA (AFP) – Scientists have found evidence of a "drastic" shift since the 1970s in north Atlantic Ocean currents that usually influence weather in the northern hemisphere, Swiss researchers said on Tuesday.

The team of biochemists and oceanographers from

Switzerland, Canada and the United States detected changes in deep sea Atlantic corals that indicated the declining influence of the cold northern Labrador Current.

They said in the US National Academy of Science journal PNAS that the change "since the early 1970s is

largely unique in the context of the last approximately 1,800 years," and raised the prospect of a direct link with global warming.

The Labrador Current interacts with the warmer Gulfstream from the south.

They in turn have a complex interaction with a climate pattern, the North Atlantic Oscillation, which has a dominant impact on weather in Europe and North America.

Scientists have pointed to a disruption or shifts in the oscillation as an explanation for moist or harsh winters in Europe, or severe summer droughts such as in Russia, in recent years.

One of the five scientists, Carsten Schubert, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Acquatic Sciences and Technology (EAWAG), underlined that for nearly 2,000 years the sub polar Labrador current off northern Canada and Newfoundland was the dominant force.

However that pattern appeared to have only been repeated occasionally in recent decades.

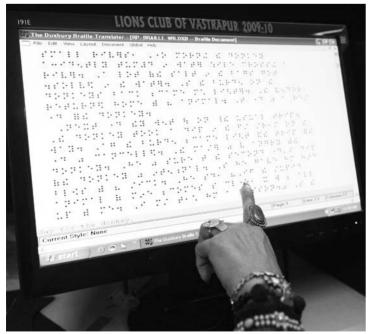
"The researchers suspect there is a direct connection between the changes in oceanic currents in the North Atlantic and global warming caused by human activities," said EAWAG in a statement. cases, ordered to remove ads

BEIJING (AFP) – Protective cases for the second generation iPad are being sold on Chinese e-commerce website showed brightly coloured silicon cases with a small hole in the back on sale for less than three dollars each.

Apple's iPad touchscreen tablet computer allows users to watch video, listen to music, play games, surf the Web and read electronic books, but the next model is also expected to feature a camera and USB port.



A Saudi man wears special tinted glasses to watch a partial solar eclipse in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah on January 4, 2011. The world'd first partial solar eclipse in 2011 occurred when a fraction of the Moon obscured the Sun, making it seem -- in clear skies -- as if a "bite" had been taken out of the solar face. (AFP PHOTO)



Braille Transcriber, Manisha Parikh, shows The Duxbury Braille Translator on a computer screen at the Blind People's Association in Ahmedabad on January 4, on the 202nd birth anniversary of inventor of the Braille language, Louis Braille. The Braille system is globally used by the visually impaired people for reading and writing. India counts about one third of the world's total blind population. (AFP PHOTO)



Health & Living

Americans 'under illusion their diet is healthy'



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Nine in 10 Americans say their diet is healthy but only a quarter limit the amount of fat or sugar they eat, and two-thirds don't eat enough fruit and vegetables, a poll found.

"Americans tend to give themselves high marks for healthy eating, but when we asked how many sugary drinks, fatty foods, and fruits and veggies they consumed, we found that their definition of healthy eating was questionable," said Nancy Metcalf of Consumer Reports Health, which conducted the poll.

Of the 1,234 American adults polled, 89.7 percent said their diet was "somewhat" (52.6 percent), "very" (31.5 percent), or "extremely" healthy (5.6 percent).

But 43 percent of the survey respondents said they drank at least one sugary soda or other sweetened drink every day, and just one in four said they limited sweets, sugars or fats in their diet, the poll conducted in early November found.

Four in 10 Americans said they ate "pretty much everything" or "mostly everything" that they wanted, the poll found.

Few count calories or weigh themselves, but when

they were asked to self-report their weight, four in 10 were off-track.

A third said they were at a healthy weight when they actually had a body mass index (BMI) of an overweight or obese person, while eight percent thought they were overweight or obese, but their BMIs suggested they

were not.

One in three US adults is obese, and losing weight is the second most popular new year's resolution this year after quitting smoking, according to

a poll published last week by

the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

Three in 10 Americans surveyed by Consumer Reports said they eat five or more servings of fresh fruit or vegetables daily, as recommended by health officials.

When they were asked why they didn't eat more vegetables, the most common reason given by the poll respondents was that they thought they consumed enough already.

The next most commonly cited reason for not eating the recommended amount of veggies was that they are hard to store or spoil too quickly -- an excuse given by 29 percent of Americans.

Seventeen percent said someone in their household didn't like vegetables, the same number said vegetables take too long to prepare or are too difficult to prepare, and 14 percent said fresh vegetables are too expensive.

Thirteen percent said, quite simply, they don't like vegetables

Footballer's death stirs Israel organ donor debate

JERUSALEM (AFP) – In life, football icon Avi Cohen inspired thousands of young Israelis, but his death last week proved divisive because of a deep rift in the Jewish state over life-saving organ donations.

Cohen, a former national team captain and the first Israeli to play professional football in England, was mortally injured in a Tel Aviv motorcycle accident and declared brain-dead several days later.

But even though the 54year-old Cohen had signed a donor card while still alive, when doctors asked his wife and family for permission to harvest his organs, they refused.

The news sparked a heated debate in Israel, which has a low rate of organ donation compared to Western nations, amid reports the family was pressured by a group of ultra-Orthodox rabbis who oppose the practice.

Supporters of organ donations have proposed a series of

legal reforms to encourage the practice, including a controversial call to make donated organs available only to those who are themselves prepared to donate.

At the core of the ultra-Orthodox objections is the belief that a person is alive until their heart stops, and not when declared brain dead, said Daniel Sperling, an expert on medical ethics at Hebrew University's School of Public Policy.

While some mainstream rabbis, including Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, have supported the process, many other leading rabbis have refused.

As a result, Israel has low organ donation rates, with only about 10 percent of the population registered as organ donors -- and in many cases, families refuse to honour their wishes, Sperling said.-

Critics say the rabbis who adhere to ancient law are out of touch with the advances of modern medicine and accuse them of negligence, noting that about 100 Israelis die each year waiting for transplants.

But critics say opponents of organ donation have no compunction about receiving organs. They want Israel to assume automatic consent for organ donation, requiring those opposed to "opt out."

"At the same time, should a person who has opted out of the programme need an organ transplant he will be told that due to his objection to organ harvesting he will not receive one," wrote commentator Jeff Barak in the Jerusalem Post.

Cohen's wife said she made her decision for private reasons. "The decision was mine, I wanted Avi whole," she said.

"We will never know what good his organs could have done. We do know that the ease with which his firm desire to do that good was disregarded is untenable," wrote the Jerusalem Post.

Palestinian psychiatrist wins Olof Palme Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AFP) - Palestinian psychiatrist Eyad El-Sarraj won the 2010 Olof Palme Prize for his "self-sacrificing and indefatigable struggle for common sense, reconciliation, and peace" in the Middle East, the Swedish jury said.

El-Sarraj, who in 1977 became the first psychiatrist to practice in Gaza, is the founder of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), a non-governmental organisation focused on improving the mental well-being in the Palestinian community.

The 66-year-old psychiatrist has "in his professional and political work ... stood on the side of the individual human being, regardless of nationality, gender or social position," the Olof Palme Memorial Fund said in a statement. "He has brought into the light the destructive influence of repression on mental health. He has shown the connections arising be-

tween confinement, hopelessness, desperation and violence, and how this is neglected by both Palestinian and Israeli authorities," it added.

"I am proud and happy to receive this prize but I consider that the real heroes are the victims of violence, torture and war, not me," he told AFP in the Gaza Strip.







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Kyana Celaire is First Baby of the Year 2011

Last baby of 2010 and first baby of 2011 are both girls







The first baby of the year symbolizes the beginning of a new year with all the expectations of health and prosperity. It is a custom celebrated every year. This year's it is a girl, Kyana Celaire, born January 1, 2011 at 7:34 a.m. Mother Stacey Celaire arrived at the Horacio Oduber Hospital in labor at 11:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Another mother in labor, Seychelle Spencer, gave birth to Judienne Akins on New Year's Eve at 11:46 p.m.; the last baby of the year 2010.

It is an annual tradition of Oduber Agencies, exclusive agents for Huggies products on Aruba, to present the First Baby of the Year with a gift basket including diapers of different sizes; baby wipes and a vast assortment of full of baby products. This year Oduber Agencies also awarded the last baby of the

year 2010 with a selection of Huggies products.

Oduber Agencies associate Rhona Dijkhoff personally presented the two mothers with the gifts.

Oduber Agencies and The Morning News congratulate both mothers with their new little princesses.

Photos show the last baby of the year 2010 and the first baby of the year 2011 with their mothers

Cool Casino BlackJack Tournament awards Cool Cash and Lots of Fun



Locals and visitors enjoyed BlackJack action at Cool Casino when the Christmas Edition of the tournament unfolded with more than 100 guests in attendance. Top winners Ali Fakih, Vincent Champ and Mireila Wever shared the bulk of the generous \$10,000 pot, while finalists Meredith Eckmeyer, Narciso Geerman, Andres Tromp and Linda Dirks who also battled for their tournament finalists positions, received a cash consolation prize. All casino visitors enjoyed live music with pan-man Nico Connor, delicious snacks and bottomless cocktails from the early evening hours until late into the night. Pictured here, the lucky winners with Jolanda Salas, Hostess and Sandro Lacle, Casino Manager, at Cool Casino, Riu Palace.



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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in



Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept.'

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vaca-

tioners who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and minimarket.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service, There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of



kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available.

Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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- 43. Harmony
- 44. Conjurer's aid
- 45. Increases
- threefold
- 47. Notable
- 49. Talks wildly
- 51. Washed lightly
- 55. Pristine
- 58. "A Boy Like ____"
- 60. Barcelona cheer
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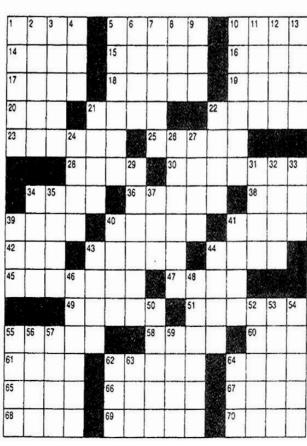
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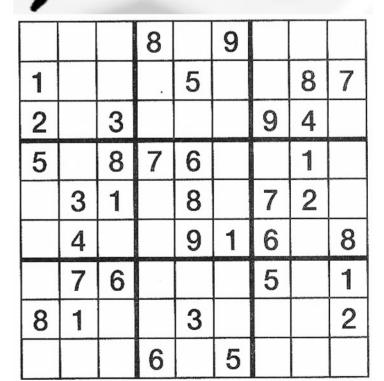
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Finance

US packaging shrinks, prices don't as fuel costs soar

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Blaming everything from high oil prices to low temperatures, US manufacturers are shrinking product sizes but not cutting prices, which amounts to a sneaky price hike, a report released said.

Popular products like Tropicana orange juice, Ivory dishwashing soap and Kraft American cheese slices "are all playing the shrinking package game, and manufacturers are attributing it to rising costs for ingredients and energy," Consumer Reports said.

When Consumer Reports researchers asked manufacturers why they have downsized some products, they blamed everything from pricier raw materials to last winter's freeze in Florida, which resulting in smaller cartons of orange juice.

Heinz sauce unit Classico said it has cut the amount of pesto sold in glass jars from 10 ounces (283 grams) to 8.1 ounces (230 grams), because of rising fuel prices.

Pints of Haagen-Dazs ice cream are no longer pints, following a weight loss diet that saw them fall from 16 to 14 ounces because of higher "ingredient and facility costs."

The surreptitious price

hikes are nothing new: in 2008, amid skyrocketing prices for oil which is used to make plastic, run many a production facility and transport finished products to supermarkets, Americans noticed that their jars of mayonnaise, tubs of margarine and jugs of juice were shrinking.

They also notice, then as now, that prices were staying the same.

This year, with the price of gasoline is at a historic high for the time of year of more than three dollars per gallon, experts are warning US consumers to expect more package-shrinkage as manufacturers try to mask increases in raw materials' and fuel costs by fiddling with product sizes.

"Higher commodity and fuel costs are expected to result in a spike in food prices by as much as three percent in 2011," said Consumer Reports senior editor Tod Marks.

But because consumers are "more conscious of price than they are of package size or net weight of contents," manufacturers are likely to downsize products rather than increase prices, said Edgar Dworsky, editor of the Mouseprint.org consumer advocacy website.

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German jobless total tops 3 mln for December

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) – The number of people without work in Germany rose in December for the first time in a year and a half, as the total number of jobseekers surged above three million, official figures showed.

Unadjusted data, the benchmark for public debate, showed that the jobless total soared by 85,000 to 3.016 million as cold temperatures crimped construction activity.

The seasonally-corrected unemployment rate in December nonetheless remained at 7.5 percent, in line with an average analyst forecast established by Dow Jones Newswires.

That is its lowest level since 1992.

For 2010 as a whole, the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent amid strong economic recovery, the labour office said, and ministers insisted that even better results are within reach.

The unemployment rate fell from 8.2 percent in 2009, and

improvements were seen across the country and in all age brackets, the official figures showed.

Germany, which has the biggest economy in Europe, has pulled out of its worst postwar recession and activity expanded last year by what might be the fastest rate since reunification in 1990.

"The trend is good," Labour Minister Ursula Von der Leyen told a press conference in reference to unemployment that has been falling since mid 2009.

Von der Leyen was "very confident" of continued improvement this year.

Economy Minister Rainer Bruderle forecast "further improvement in the labour market this year," and said in a statement that full employment was within reach.

Von der Leyen noted meanwhile that "the potential of people available for work is shrinking," in particular among the young, an issue highlighted by some business federations. Germany has benefited from increased global trade and domestic demand has also picked up as companies went ahead with investment plans and the number of unemployed fell steadily last year.

The central bank has forecast economic growth of 3.6 percent for 2010, a post-reunification record, followed by further expansion of 2.0 percent this year.

ING senior economist Carsten Brzeski noted that on average, almost 40.4 million people had a job in Germany last year, the highest level ever, and said the rise in unemployment last month would not halt the improving trend.

"Recruitment plans are still improving and vacancies are at the highest level since 2007," he added. "Flexibilisation on the labour market (e.g. variable working hours and opt-out clauses in pay agreements) and wage constraint have enabled this 'miracle'," Commerzbank economist Eckart Tuchtfeld said.

Ford, Chrysler post major sales gains in 2010

CHICAGO (AFP) – US automakers predicted strong sales growth this year after posting solid increases in 2010 sales, with Ford up 19 percent, Chrysler up 17 percent and GM up six percent.

Ford said it was the biggest winner in 2010 as it expanded US market share for the second year in a row to over 16 percent with total sales of 1.9 million vehicles.

It was the automaker's first back-to-back market share increase since 1993 and comes after years of painful restructuring.

Unlike General Motors and Chrysler - which were forced into bankruptcy in 2009 - Ford managed to survive the 2008 financial crisis and economic downturn without government aid.

"With our balanced line of high-quality, fuel-efficient products, we have a solid foundation to deliver more sales and improved results in 2011," said Ken Czubay, Ford vice president for US marketing, sales and service.

Ford said it expects the global economy to expand three to four percent in 2011 while global auto sales reach record levels of 75 to 85 million vehicles.

Ford expects the US economy to expand three to four percent in 2011 and industry sales to be in the range of 12.5 to 13.5 million.

However, that will still be significantly below the 15 to 17 million vehicles sold every year from 1994 through 2007.

GM had a more robust forecast for 2011 US sales -- 13 to 13.5 million vehicles -- and said it was well positioned for gains after sales rose 6.3 percent to 2.2 million vehicles in 2010.

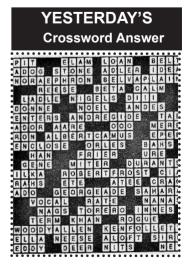
GM -- which launched the world's biggest initial stock offering in November -- said it managed to expand its market share in 2010 while its four remaining brands sold 118,435 more vehicles this year than the company' eight brands in 2009.

Chrysler attributed its solid gains to the business plan de-

veloped by Fiat's Sergio Marchionne, who took the helm after Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy in June 2009.

The automaker launched 16 all-new or significantly improved models last year, most of them during the fourth quarter.

Chrysler's sales rose 17 percent to 1.09 million vehicles in 2010 after posting nine straight months of growth culminating in a 16 percent year-on-year gain for December.





Albert Cruz is manager of the third quarter

at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



At the end of a recent managers' get-together and gift exchange at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, General Manager Rob Smith conducted an informal award ceremony praising three very-deserving managers, nominated to the Manager of the Third Quarter award.

Chef Anthony Martinus nominated by Executive Chef Hector Espinoza, Pool & Beach Manager Randell Boekhouder nominated by Food & Beverage Manager Rudy Maduro and Spa Manager Albert Cruz nominated by no less than three executives, General Manager Rob Smith, Director of Operations Bob Curtis and the Executive Assistant, Lourdes Geerman, received the applause and congratulations of their peers in gratitude for dedicating their

personal resources to the resort and in appreciation of their result-oriented leadership.

The coveted title was finally earned by Albert Cruz who contributed greatly to customer and employee satisfaction at the spa as well as to substantial revenue increases.

Pictured here the award ceremony, rewarding top three managers for their tireless contributions.

Winners of the Rey Hing Supermarket end of year raffle



Rey Hing Supermarket in Pos Chiquito, ended their year by awarding gifts to the happy winners of annual holiday campaign. Otilia Maduro won a 32 inch LCD TV, Jeanette Dennis won a pressure cooker and Genie Tromp and Maria Delanie-Geerman both won a stand fan. Rey Hing representative Seihow Chan happily handed over the gifts to the store's loyal clients. Afterwards all enjoyed a tremendous fireworks show followed by a toast to the New Year. Rey Hing Supermarket wishes the entire community of Aruba a happy and prosperous 2011.

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans and homemade potato beet salad

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!



French TV star accused of Hemingway bio plagiarism

PARIS (AFP) – A French celebrity TV news anchor, who notoriously faked an "exclusive" interview with Cuban leader Fidel Castro, accused of plagiarism in his new biography of Ernest Hemingway.

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, a household name in France for the past three decades, was accused by L'Express magazine of lifting around 100 pages from a previous biography of the late US novelist.

The weekly's website said PPDA, as he is popularly known in France, cut and pasted swathes of text from a 1985 book by US author Peter Griffin -- later translated into French --- and passed them off

as his own by changing them slightly.

The journalist told L'Express that he had consulted Griffin's book as part of his research but denied plagiarism. He was exposed in 1991 for using press conference footage and, interposing his own questions, pretending it was his own "exclusive" interview with Castro.

PPDA also got a suspended prison term and large fine in the 1990s for receiving the proceeds of embezzled funds.

He presented the evening news on France's main private channel TF1 from the mid-1980s until 2008 and is also a best-selling author.



Actor Pete Postlethwaite dead at 64

LONDON, England (AFP) – Pete Postlethwaite, who earned an Oscar nomination for his role in "In the Name of the Father", has died aged 64 following a lengthy illness, a friend announced.

Journalist and friend Andrew Richardson said he died peacefully in hospital in Shropshire on Sunday. Postlethwaite had been receiving treatment for cancer.

One of Britain's top character actors, he starred in films such as "The Usual Suspects", "The Lost World: Jurassic Park", and was a highly-acclaimed theatre and television performer.

Postlethwaite was born to a working-class Catholic family in Warrington, Lancashire, in February 1946, the youngest of four children.

He trained as a teacher but gave it up by the age of 24 to train as an actor at the Bristol Old Vic theatre, taking a job as a sheet metal worker making beer kegs to get by.

Honing his skills on stage with Liverpool's Everyman Theatre, he then joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in the mid-1980s, meeting the Queen after a performance of "Taming Of The Shrew".

"My mother always thought that acting was a phase," he said.

"But when she saw me with the Queen, she finally accepted that I was serious about it."

His first film appearance was a minor part in the "The Duellists" (1977), directed by Ridley Scott.

However, his leading role as a terrifying father in the 1988 British film "Distant Voices, Still Lives" -- considered by some an overlooked masterpiece -- brought him wider recognition.

He broke into Hollywood, appearing alongside Mel Gibson in "Hamlet" (1990), "Alien 3" (1992) and "The Last of the Mohicans" in the same year.

His performance as quiet, devoted parent Giuseppe Conlon in "In the Name of the Father" (1994), was one of his finest and earned him an Oscar nomination.

The film was about the wrongful convictions of the socalled Guildford Four for an Irish Republican Army bomb attack.

He went on to appear as the mysterious Kobayashi in "The Usual Suspects" (1995), in the British hit film "Brassed Off" (1996) and director Baz



Luhrmann's adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" (1996).

Postlethwaite appeared in two 1997 films directed by Steven Spielberg, "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" and "Amistad".

Spielberg described him as "the best actor in the world".

In response, Postlethwaite joked: "I'm sure what Spielberg actually said was, 'the thing about Pete is that he thinks he's the best actor in the world'."

In 2004, Postlethwaite was recognised by his country, being made an OBE for his services to drama.

He continued working despite his condition, appearing last year in "Ironclad", "Clash of the Titans", "Inception" and "The Town".

He is survived by his wife, Jacqui, his son Will and daughter, Lilv.

Python newlyweds draw crowds in Cambodia

KANDAL, Cambodia (AFP)

– Hundreds of Cambodians
this week celebrated an unusual wedding ceremony -for a pair of pythons -- who
they believe will bring good
luck to their villages.

The marriage of serpent bride Chamreun to groom, Krong Pich, was held in Village One in Kandal province, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of the capital Phnom Penh, and attracted nearly 1,000 people, according to witnesses.

"We organised the wedding ceremony for the pythons in order to oust bad things and bring good luck and happiness for our villages," said 41-year-old Neth Vy, Chamreun's owner.

Neth Vy said his family had raised Chamreun in their home since 1994, after the then finger-sized snake got caught in his fishing net in a lake.

He said Chamreun had gone missing for over a month but was found a week ago, at the same time people in his neighbouring village caught a male python, which they named Krong Pich.

Old villagers decided to



A Cambodian man holds Chamreun, his female pet python (left), as a woman holds Krong Pich, her male python

AFP PHOTO

wed the two pythons after a boy, who was believed to be spirit-possessed, said Krong Pich wanted to marry Chamreun, or "people in the villages will suffer illnesses and bad luck," Neth Vy told AFP.

He said some fortune tellers had also appealed for the marriage between the pythons in order to bring "good luck and harmony for the people in the villages".

"So we held the wedding ceremony for the pythons with blessings from Buddhist monks, in accordance with our tradition," he said.

Many people offered money and prayed after the pythons were placed in the same cage following the religious ceremony.

"It surprised me. Since I was born I have never seen snakes get married," said Penh Kong, a 56-year-old vendor, while admired the happy couple.

Many Cambodians are highly superstitious, particularly in the countryside where people continue to merge animist practices with Buddhism.

Federer and Nadal take first steps

DOHA (AFP) - Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal took very different first steps towards what could be the 23rd shoot-out of their famous rivalry on Saturday in the Qatar Open.

Nadal, the youngest player ever to win all four Grand Slams, won comfortably against Karol Beck, his 6-3, 6-0 success over the former top 40 Slovakian containing trademark heavyweight forehands struck from improbable positions.

But Federer, the holder of a record 16 Grand Slam titles, had to survive three successive set points against Thomas Schoorel and to save six break points in all in a 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 win.

Federer also brought the house down just before the end by striking a sensational winner from between his legs, which he described as one of the best shots of his career. But the legend gave praise to the 21-year-old Dutch qualifier.

"I thought he was a better player in the first set," Federer said. "I really felt I started getting into the match once I saved those set points, so I just got a bit of a better read on his serve.

"I was able to stay calm, go after what I wanted to do,



you know, to play really tough tennis."

Nadal never looked like suffering alarms. He bristled muscular aggression in the cool, slowish evening conditions which gave him more time to indulge his preference for running round his backhand and hitting his clubbing forehand from everywhere.

He also served very well. Breaking serve at the first attempt gave him a grip on the first set which he never relinquished, closing it out with two superb first serves in the last game.

Nadal then moved into almost complete control against an opponent who often played some fine rallies, without winning very many of them.

Even when Nadal slipped

to 15-40 as he attempted to finish the match, he never looked like dropping the game. He saved the two break points with an ace and a service winner, and then firmly corrected the on-court interviewer who suggested that it had been easy.

"It was not easy," Nadal maintained. "It's important not to underestimate the opponent and it's difficult to keep my standard high.

Nadal next plays Lukas Lacko, the world number 89 from Slovakia, who survived on the edge of defeat throughout much of a two-hour 37-minute contest and prevented an all-Spanish clash by beating Pere Riba 5-7, 7-6 (9-7), 7-6 (7-4).

Federer however will have an all-Swiss encounter. His second round is against Marco Chiudinelli, a qualifier from Fuellinsdorf who also came back from the brink during a 3-6, 7-6(7-3), 6-3 win over Reda El Amrani, a wild card entry from Morocco.

Nadal could find himself with a quarter-final with Ernests Gulbis, the fifth-seeded Latvian who again showed what a dangerous talent he is, beating Victor Hanescu, the former top 30 Romanian, by 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

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Chelsea boss Ancelotti rules out Beckham bid



COBHAM (AFP) - Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti insisted on Tuesday that his club will not make a bid to sign David Beckham in the January transfer window.

Beckham is keen to return to the Premier League on a three-month loan from the LA Galaxy during the MLS off-season as he tries to show England coach Fabio Capello he is still worthy of a place in his squad.

Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp has already gone public on his interest in Beckham, but a deal has yet to be concluded for the former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder.

At least 14 clubs are said to have expressed interest in signing the 35-year-old but, although Ancelotti took Beckham on loan during his time as AC Milan coach, there won't be a reunion at Stamford Bridge.

"No, we are not interested. Our aim is different. In that position we have good players," Ancelotti told reporters at the club's training ground.

"I read Beckham would like to come back for Tottenham. He is a fantastic professional player and could be good support for Tottenham if he comes back."

Beckham is available until the MLS season restarts in March and Ancelotti believes he would do a good job for Tottenham despite his age.

"We had the same question when he came to Milan two years ago because he was not young and came from the American league, which is not a league with fantastic football but he gave fantastic support to the team," Ancelotti added.

"Beckham is a professional player, it is easy to manage him. Every time he does total support for the team. He is an unselfish player. I was happy to manage him for six months because he is a fantastic player and a good man."

Masters makes videogame debut, boosts Tiger brand

REDWOOD CITY (AFP) -Tiger Woods, whose brand name was tarnished mightily by the sex scandal that erupted around him last year, has a new partner with a highly regarded image - Augusta National Golf Club.

The fabled home course of the Masters, nestled among the Georgia pine trees, will be featured in a videogame for the first time in the next edition of the Tiger Woods series, officials announced Tuesday.

Augusta National chairman Billy Payne and Electronic Arts Incorporated officials collaborated for three years to give video golf fans an unprecedented chance to play for a virtual

green jacket, the symbol of Masters supremacy.

"There are many new and unique elements in the game that will make everyone feel like they're really competing at Augusta National," Woods said. "This is great for the sport and will connect a new audience with the Masters."

The move shows a re-embracing of Woods only nine months after Payne scolded Woods for the scandal that embroiled Woods last year, the first winless season of his career, and led to the divorce of Woods and Elin Nordegren.

EA Sports will release Tiger Woods PGA Tour 12: The Masters in North America on March 29 and worldwide on April 1 on Wii, Xbox 360 and Playstation3 consoles. Augusta and five other courses are included in a special edition for Playstation3.

The timing is just days be-

fore the world's best golfers gather in Augusta, Georgia, for the April 7 start of the 2011 Masters, the next major championship event. Woods ended a fivemonth break from golf at last

Woods ended a fivemonth break from golf at last year's Masters, where Payne noted how Woods had "disappointed us all" by admitting infidelity with multiple mistresses.

"Our hero did not live up to the expectations of the role model we saw for our children," Payne said last April. "He forgot in the process to remember that with fame and fortune comes responsibility, not invisibility."

EA Sports and Nike were the major sponsors who stayed with Woods as the scope of the scandal became public, the billion-dollar pitchman having been removed from advertisements by several other prominent firms.





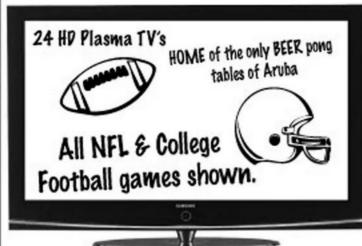




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Ogilvy goes for "three-peat" as US **PGA** season begins



KAPALUA (AFP) - Australia's Geoff Ogilvy will begin his quest for a third consecutive triumph at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions when the US PGA Tour's 2011 season begins on Thursday.

Ogilvy, coming off an Australian Open victory last month at Sydney, recalled how a season of struggles followed his 2010 Tournament of Champions victory.

"I won the first week and then play relatively horrible golf all year," Ogilvy said. "I didn't enjoy golf as much be-

cause of how I was playing, but any time you win an Australian Open you'll look back and think you've had a great year."

A field of 34 players will tee off at the 5.6 million-dollar event, but 14-time major winner Tiger Woods and world number one Lee Westwood of England will not be among those hunting for the 1.12 million-dollar top prize.

Woods, trying to make a comeback after a sex scandal and the first winless year of his career in 2010, figures to command the greatest atten-

Ronaldinho signs for Gremio: report

ROME (AFP) - Former twice world player of the year Ronaldinho has signed a deal to join Brazilians Gremio from AC Milan, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport on Tuesday.

The sports newspaper claims Ronaldinho's brother and agent Roberto de Assis has reached an agreement with Gremio, where the 30-

Gazzetta claims the official news will be announced in a few hours.

to the Premier League.

year-old began his career in 1998 in his home town of Porto Alegre.

Should that be the case it will scupper Blackburn's bid to bring the former Barcelona and Paris St Germain forward



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www.sasaki-apartments.com E-mail: sasakiapartments@hotmail.com tion this season whenever he steps on a course.

That could come later this month at Torrey Pines, where he has dominated, but might not happen until next month's Dubai Desert Classic.

No Americans have won the Tournament of Champions, limited to the prior year's winners, since Woods in 2000 and Jim Furyk in 2001. Woods has not played in the event since 2004 but this time did not qualify for the chance.

Five other stars who did win US events last year are absent, including Westwood and Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, who play on the European Tour, plus Masters winner Phil Mickelson, PGA Championship winner Martin Kaymer of Germany and British Open winner Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa.

Tournament of Champions winners playing this week include Ogilvy, Furyk, 2003 winner Ernie Els of South Africa and Aussie Stewart Appleby, who completed his own Hawaii "tre-ble" with titles in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Furyk, ranked sixth after capturing last year's US PGA playoff crown, is second among ranked players teeing off this week, one spot below reigning US Open champion Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland.

Other international starters include Arjun Atwal, who became India's first PGA Tour winner by capturing the Wvndham Championship last August as a qualifier, the first qualifier in 24 years to capture a US PGA Tour title.

Atwal and Rocco Mediate will be the first pair of the PGA season to tee off Thursday while Ogilvy and Furyk will be in the final pairing of the season's opening round.

'Great day for Test cricket' as Tendulkar, Steyn battle

CAPE TOWN (AFP) -Sachin Tendulkar and Dale Steyn fought out a titanic battle before India took a tworun first innings lead on the third day of the third and final Test against South Africa at Newlands on Tuesday.

Tendulkar, Test cricket's all-time leading run-scorer, made 146 in an Indian total of 364, while Steyn, the world's number one fast bowler, took five for 75.

By the close, South Africa had reached 52 for two in their second innings to be 50 runs ahead with eight wickets standing. South African captain Graeme Smith was trapped leg before wicket by off- spinner Harbhajan Singh for 29 shortly before the close and was quickly followed by nightwatchman Paul Harris.

With the series between the world's two leading Test nations locked at one-all, it may take something special from one of the two sides to force a result during the remaining two days.

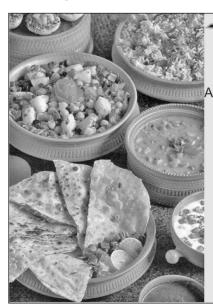
But something special was what Tendulkar and Steyn produced for 16 000 enthralled spectators.

"It was a great day for Test cricket," said Harbhajan. "Sachin got another brilliant hundred and Steyn bowled brilliantly. You can't ask for more.'

It was not one of Tendulkar's most fluent innings. Indeed, Steyn beat his bat several times during two blistering spells against the master batsman. But Tendulkar never lost his composure as he battled to his 51st Test century on a pitch which always offered some assistance to the bowlers.

Only two other batsmen made scores of any significance. Opening batsman Gautam Gambhir struggled to 93 and shared a third wicket stand of 176 with Tendulkar, while Harbhajan Singh was typically unorthodox as he hit 40 and put on 76 for the seventh wicket with Tendulkar.

Steyn was magnificent, bowling at high pace and getting late away swing, although he had no luck in his first spell of the day. He bowled five overs, all to Tendulkar, had an appeal for a catch behind turned down and conceded ten runs, six of which were off the edge of the bat while Tendulkar managed one sumptuous cover drive for four.



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Rio 2016: Another Olympic logo, another controversy



Hours after unveiling the new logo for the Rio 2016 Olympics, organizers were denying charges of plagiarism.

Organizers of the 2016 Olympics, to be held in Rio, Brazil, trotted out their new logo as part of an elaborate beach party on New Years Eve, Brazilian and media were quick to claim that the design looked remarkably like the logo for The Telluride Foundation, based in Colorado. of Tatil, the Brazilian agency that created the logo, denied any accusations of plagiarism, telling newspaper

reporters his company did extensive research to guarantee the design was unique. Gelli acknowledged a "similarity" with the foundation's logo, but said the general concept of people embracing each other is not novel.

The flowing symbol resembles three figures — orange, green and blue — embraced at the arms and in a flowing dance.

"The logo for Rio's 2016 Games conveys passion and transformation. The passion of all Cariocas and Brazilians for sport and celebration," said Carlos Nuzman, president of the Rio Olympic organizing committee, "Carioca" being a nickname for Rio's citizens. "And the transformation that the Games are already bringing to Rio and to Brazil."

Organizers say the logo is based on four concepts: contagious energy, harmonious diversity, exuberant nature and the Olympic spirit.

The Rio Olympics will be the first in South America.

Jets lawyer:

Massage therapists lawsuit without merit

NEW YORK (AFP) - A lawsuit by two massage therapists claiming sexual harassment from Brett Favre and the loss of work with the New York Jets after spurning his advances is "without merit", the NFL team said Tuesday.

A statement from Gary H. Glaser, employment counsel to the Jets, also said the team looks forward to taking the matter to court and expects to win there because the club had not been aware of the accusations.

"Unfortunately, the plaintiffs never reported the allegations to the Jets, either during or after the conclusion of their work," Glaser said.

"The case against the Jets is completely without merit and we look forward to defending the matter in court, where we are confident that the Jets will prevail."

The lawsuit filed Monday by Christina Scavo and Shannon O'Toole against the Jets, NFL all-time passing yardage leader Favre and Jets massage program coordinator Lisa Ripi concerns lewd emails allegedly sent by Favre in 2008.

Favre came out of retirement to play for the Jets in 2008, ended another retirement to return with Minnesota in 2009 and made another comeback in 2010 with the Vikings, vowing that last Sunday's loss at Detroit was his final game.

Scavo and O'Toole said Favre sent an e-mail after a massage session seeking more than the usual rubdown.

"Brett here. you and crissy want to get together im all alone," Favre texted, according to the lawsuit, then followed up with "Kinda lonely tonight I guess I have bad intentions."

Scavo told her husband about the text messages and he telephoned Favre asking for him to stop them and apologize, but Favre refused, according to the lawsuit.

Favre was fined 50,000 dollars last week by the NFL for refusing to cooperate in their investigation of a sexual harassment claim by Jenn Sterger, a former game hostess with the Jets. The league could not link Favre to lewd texts sent to Sterger.



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